

NAVAJO AREA AGENCY ON AGING PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

As requested of Navajo Area Agency on Aging for the following:

The Tuba City Senior Centers forum was at Navajo Mountain Chapter House on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 and had 78 elders in attendance. The Crownpoint Senior Centers forum was at the Crownpoint Chapter House on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 and had 150 elders in attendance. The Fort Defiance Senior Centers forum was at Tohatchi Chapter on Thursday, November 18, 2004 and had 172 elders in attendance. The Chinle Senior Center forum was at the Chinle Catholic Hall in Chinle and had 125 elders in attendance. The Shiprock Senior Center forum was at Teec nos pos Chapter on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 and had 120 elders in attendances. All attendances totaled 645 from the respected senior centers and communities.

The following recommendations were made at the agencies:

Chinle Agency

1. Network with other programs
2. Exercise and more activities at the senior centers
3. Set age limit
4. Grade roads to senior center HD clients
5. Minor home renovations
6. Incorporate more traditional meals in the menu
7. DEPP to Social Services

Crownpoint Agency

The following recommendations were made at the Crownpoint Agency NAAA Public hearing and they are listed in the order of importance.

Majority of the elders expressed their need for new housing or for renovations to their homes. They did indicate that they had completed forms and application and have not hear about the status ever again. They also indicated that their requests had been denied because they did not have a home site lease. They still do want new housing or renovations done to their homes.

Roads Improvements was another concern expressed by our elders. The only paved or good roadways are areas where the school buses run to pickup and take students to and from school. It was also mentioned that the senior center "buses": cannot go through the muddy, severely bumpy roads to get to some of the elders homes and have to be without food for the day or however long it took to get to them the next time.

The next most important issue was the projects we have had; the dental, eye and hearing aids assistance funds. Some the elders indicated that they had not heard of the free dental, eye and hearing items until just now. They wanted to be part of it. It was announced that this was not the first year the offer was being made; and to visit with their senior center to get registered to receive the benefits. We do need more funds to do this.

Handicapped rails were also requested. The elders indicated that some of them needed this renovation/installation for their homes. They also stated that they had not funds or means to get this process going. They indicated that if it was installed in their homes, they could be more independent and not rely on anyone else to help them get up and get around.

Reduction of staff hours for some senior centers was also mentioned. The elders stated and wanted to know why this was done. That they are aware of the Navajo Nation audit; however, the decision was the Directors and Supervisors ultimately. They believed that the staff were helping out and if their hours were shortened, the elders would not receive the assistance they were seeking. They also said that the Supervisor were the main contacts for them with the outside world, especially those that were alone. They asked why were the most important “clients” made to suffer, while the council delegates receive an increase in pay. That during the old days, the wise people made our decision and plans without pay. They asked if we could help our staff out by reinstating them back to full time.

Fort Defiance

1. Elders respectfully request to restore 80 hours for senior center staff members.
2. Elders requested more senior center participant in outreach activities, such as recruiting, chapter meetings, coordination with other resources and other activities.
3. Elders requested better communication among elders and staff, which speaks to education initiative on the cultural component of NAAA mission statement.
4. Elders requested assistance with their road improvement such as community individual's roads for service accessibility.
5. Elders requested consistent and effective financial planning for senior centers
6. Elders requested for quality meals in terms of nutritional, traditional professional Prepared food
7. Elders requested for new vans in several community.
8. Elders requested for nutritional breakfast meals
9. Elders requested for increase mileage allocation of vans and for recreational activities, social functions and other transportation needs
10. Elders requested for increase personal care, such as respite, Adult In Home Care; National Family Caregiver support program and other sources professional referrals.
11. Elders requested for prioritization for funding for their housing needs.
12. Elders requested for more funding for senior center equipment.

Shiprock Agency

1. Increase working hours from 64/72 back to 80 hours per pay period ending
- 2 . Pave roads and upgrade unpaved roads each month
- 3 . Need larger and wider senior center van
- 4 . Various activities and outings to educate elders
- 5 . Senior center construction and renovation including addition
6. Transportation services for elders
7. Train staff

Tuba City Agency

1. Arts and Crafts
 - A. leather work such as belts, saddles, moccasins
 - B. sewing such as blankets, pillows quilts, etc.
 - C .weaving such as baskets and rugs
 - D. wool carding
2. Heath and exercise
 - A. food demonstration
 - B .include more traditional food on menu
 - C. purchase exercise equipment
 - D. daily education on food and health
 - E. song and dance activity
3. Educational information/training
 - A. Latest information on Medicare Medicaid
 - B. Social Security benefits
 - C. Computers
 - D. Learn to read and write Navajo
 - E. earn ad GED
 - F. Presentation of various topics
4. Outdoor recreational activities
 - A. gardening
 - B. plant fruits and vegetable
 - C. landscaping
 - D. build shading around center
5. Assistance
 - A. eyeglasses
 - B. dentures
 - C. hearing aids
 - D. wood hauling
 - E. indoor plumbing
 - F. home improvements
 - G. outhouse construction project
7. Other activities
 - A. do laundry
 - B. grocery shop

- C. eat out a restaurant
- D. personal errands
- 8. Other non-COA related
 - A. senior center expansion
 - B. senior center building separate from chapter houses
 - C. restoration of staff hours to 80